

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition. It features large, organic shapes in shades of magenta, red, and blue. Overlaid on these are various patterns: a dense grid of small white dots in the top right, a pattern of white wavy lines in the bottom right, a grid of small white crosses in the bottom center, and a pattern of small white dashes on the left. There are also several small, white, squiggly lines scattered throughout the design.

The Reading Festival

Lauren Nurse

2006679



Key words –

- Relationships
- Capitalism
- Emotionless
- Lifecycle
- Society

“Freedom isn’t the same for girls”

Keys Themes –

- Capitalism
- Lack of emotion
- Comments on male/ female relationships
- Cycle of life and death
- Puts life down to simple terms, reduces life into a few main events
- Affects of modern life



Happy endings
- Margaret Atwood



Ideas –

- Comment on society
- Reference towards capitalism
- Gender Roles
- Key events in life, Birth, marriage, work, death





The Year of Spaghetti – Haruki Murakami



Key Words –

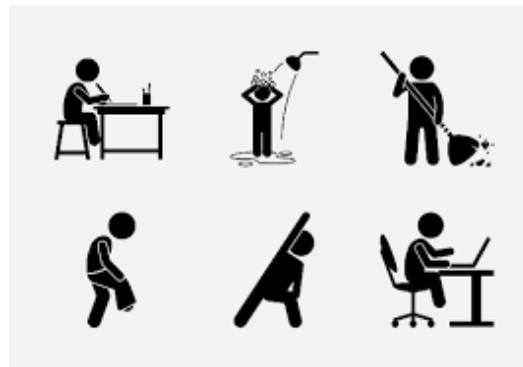
- Loneliness
- Ritual
- Isolation
- Independent
- Routine

Key Themes –

- Digging up the past
- His only enjoyment comes from cooking spaghetti, its also used as his only distraction.
- Pasta is known for being a comfort dish, this takes it to the extreme.

Ideas –

- Comments on loneliness
- Themes of this book, are very relevant to todays times
- Tells a story of isolation
- Lack of relationships
- Joy coming from little things in life



“I cooked spaghetti to live, and lived to cook spaghetti.”



*"All right she told herself.
So I've killed him"*

Ideas –

- 1950s housewife
- Hidden weapons
- Feminism
- Gender norms, especially towards women
- Hidden in plain sight.



Key themes –

- Keeping secrets
- Women hiding information from men/husband
- She is devoted to her husband to when things change between them, she acts without thinking, as she doesn't know what to do without him to guide her.
- All if her actions are guided and controlled by her husband, even without her knowing

Lamb to the Slaughter – Roald Dahl



Key words –

- Secrets
- Control
- Power dynamic
- Hiding
- Hurt



The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World by Gabriel Garcia Marques



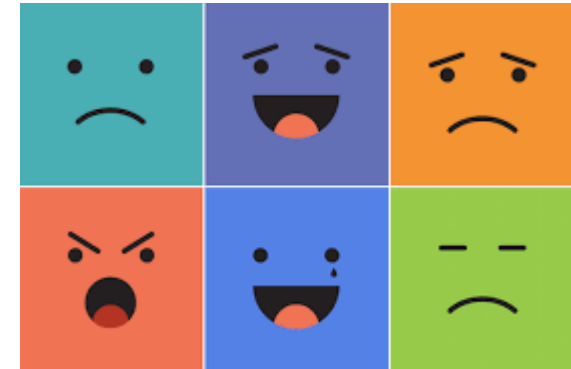
Key Themes –

- Links to mythology
- The men don't want to except the man, who could represent change.
- The mysterious man brings many emotions, including joy, sadness, hope and anger.

"He has the face of someone called Esteban."

Ideas –

- Mythology
- Colour themes
- Use of flowers
- Lighting being brought into the images
- Images could start out dark and become lighter.
- Gradually using colour within the images



Key Words-

- Change
- Mystery
- Emotions
- Light
- Mythology



Key Words –

- Relationships
- Uncomfortable
- Two-faces
- Secrets
- Lust

Cat Person by Kristen Roupenian

Ideas –

- Two sides to someone
- Hidden personalities
- Difference in personalities

Key Themes –

- Fast pace relationships
- The feeling of being uncomfortable
- Wrong choices and bad decisions
- Expresses how women really feel, although they won't say it out loud
- Plays on how women feel like they owe men something
- Dynamic between younger and older men/women



"Don't worry, I'm not going to murder you."

Key Words –

- Family
- Unconditional love
- Tradition
- Fear
- Symbolism



Key Themes –

- Motherly love
- Feelings of being an outsider
- Not fitting in
- The tiger symbolises power and fear, which are also key themes

Ideas-

- Taking photos of inanimate objects and photoshop them to “come alive”
- Use symbolism of animals in my photos



A memory is a re-creation, precious because it is both more and less than the original.

**Paper Menagerie
by Ken Liu**

The Company of Wolves by Angela Carter

Key Theme –

- Links between evil and men
- Wolf represses evil and danger
- Forest gives a feeling of being lost
- Fine line between men and wolf, men representing seemingly normal, and the wolf representing evil



“Those are the voices of my brothers, darling; I love the company of wolves.”



Key Words –

- Evil
- Innocents
- Twisted
- Danger
- Childhood

Ideas-

- Twisted version of Little Red Riding Hood, could do sinister versions of classic fairy tales
- Horror versions, of innocent stories



“No doubt when Dee sees it she will want to tear it down.”



Key Words –

- Expectations
- Family
- Perspective
- Broken home
- Difference
- Relationship

Everyday Use by Alice Walker



Ideas-

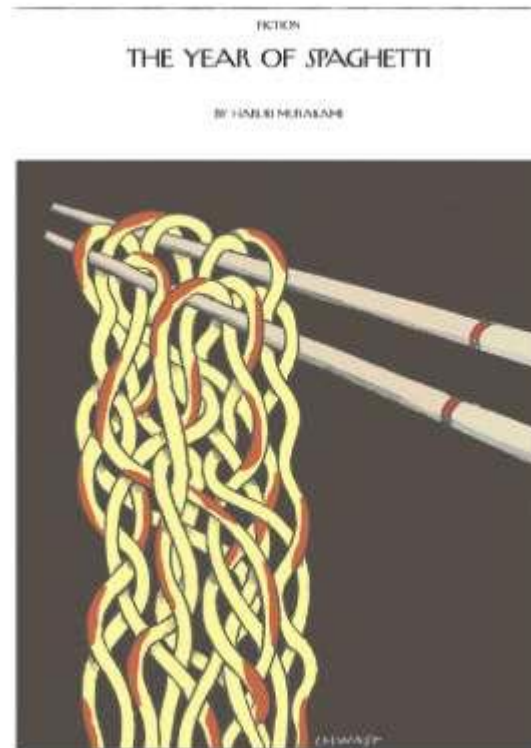
- Broken perspective images
- Forced perspective images, by certain illusions for the viewers, so they are forced into seeing the image in a certain way

Key Themes-

- Certain expectations
- New perspective from the mother
- Different ways of thinking and perspective from the mother, versus both daughters

Final Book Selection

The Year of Spaghetti by Haruki Murakami



The Year of Spaghetti by Haruki Murakami

Isolation

Use of long exposure images of doing the same task, to represent repetition



Light coming from laptop, phone, T.V, etc, in order to represent light/joy coming from doing such activities



Black and white images

Dark colours, very little use of colour



One light source

Could use light from a single lamp

Low light images



Loneliness





Uses low light within
his images



Lots of use of shadows
on the faces in his
photos

Philip Lorca Dicorcia

Artist Inspiration

Created a piece
called heads, in
which he takes
portrait images



Very similar to what I
want to create

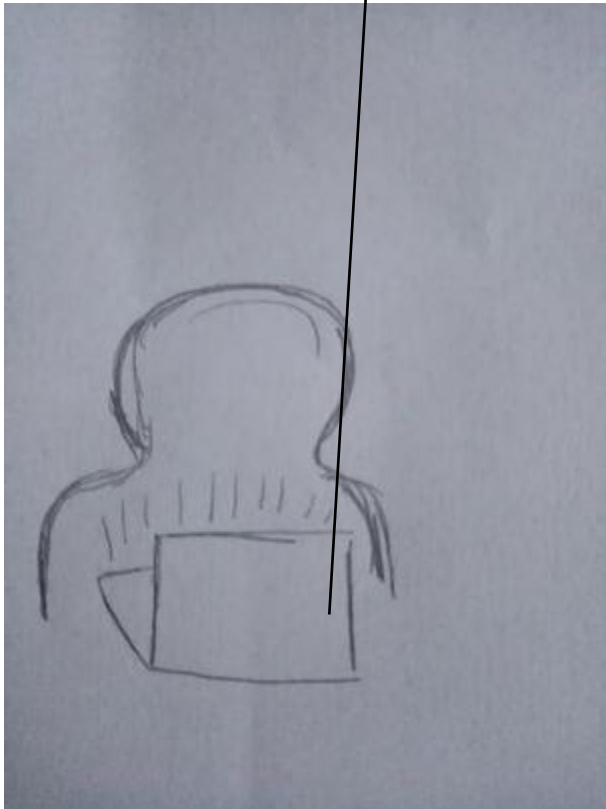


Nirav Patel

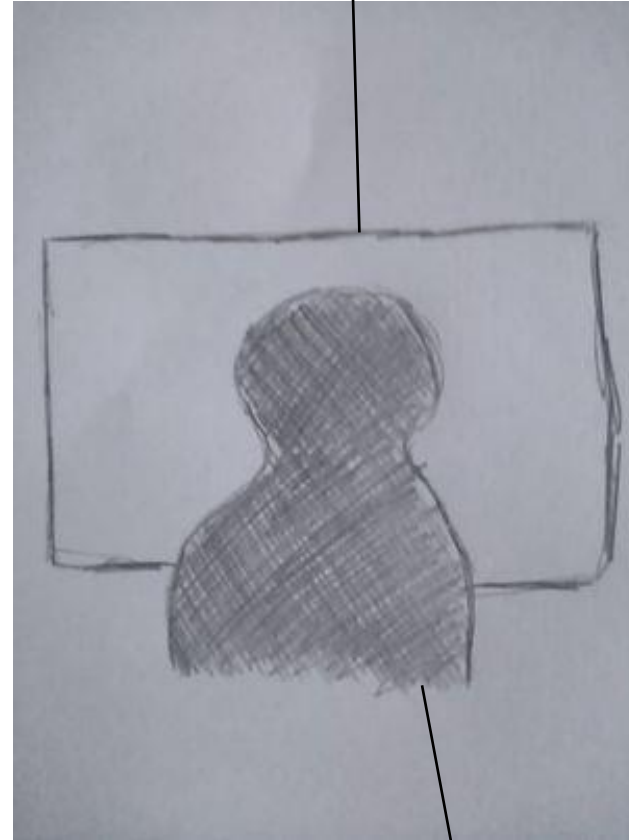
Uses contrast within
his photography

Sketches of my Ideas

Light from the laptop,
lighting up the subject of
the image



T.V in the foreground
of the image, with the
brightness shinning on
their face



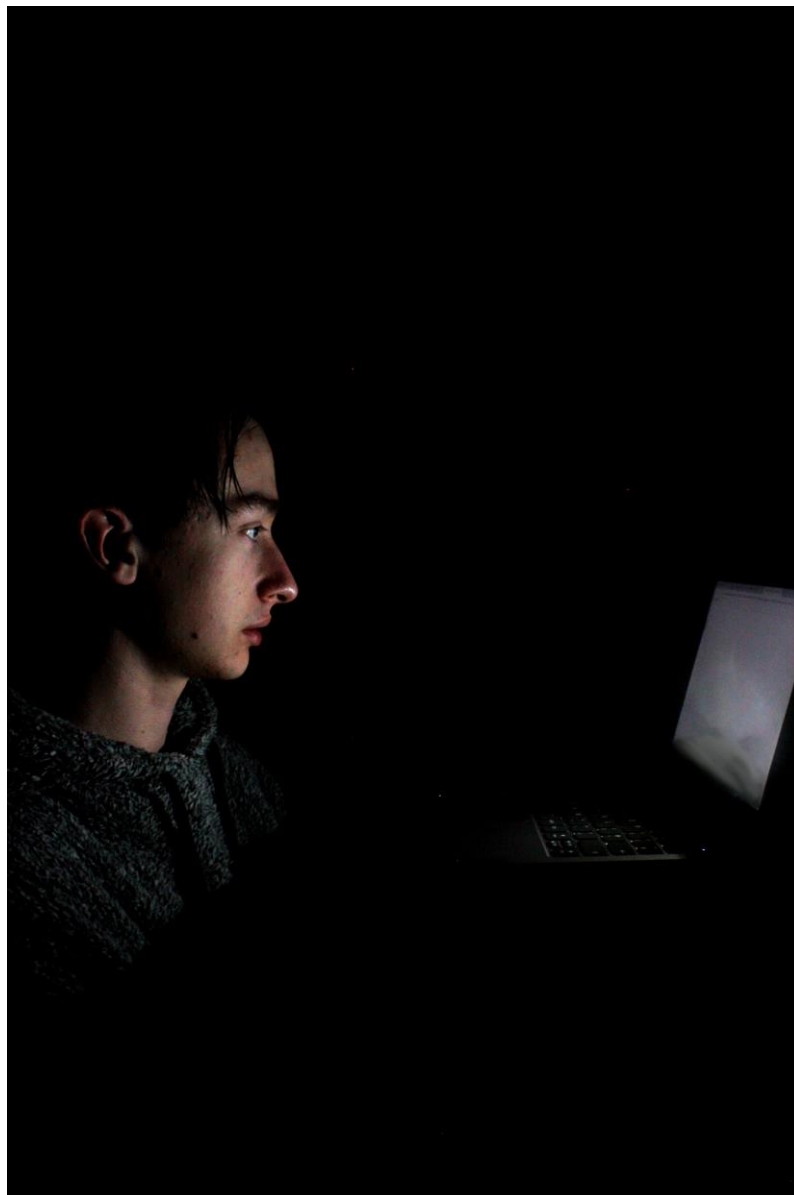
Silhouette of a person



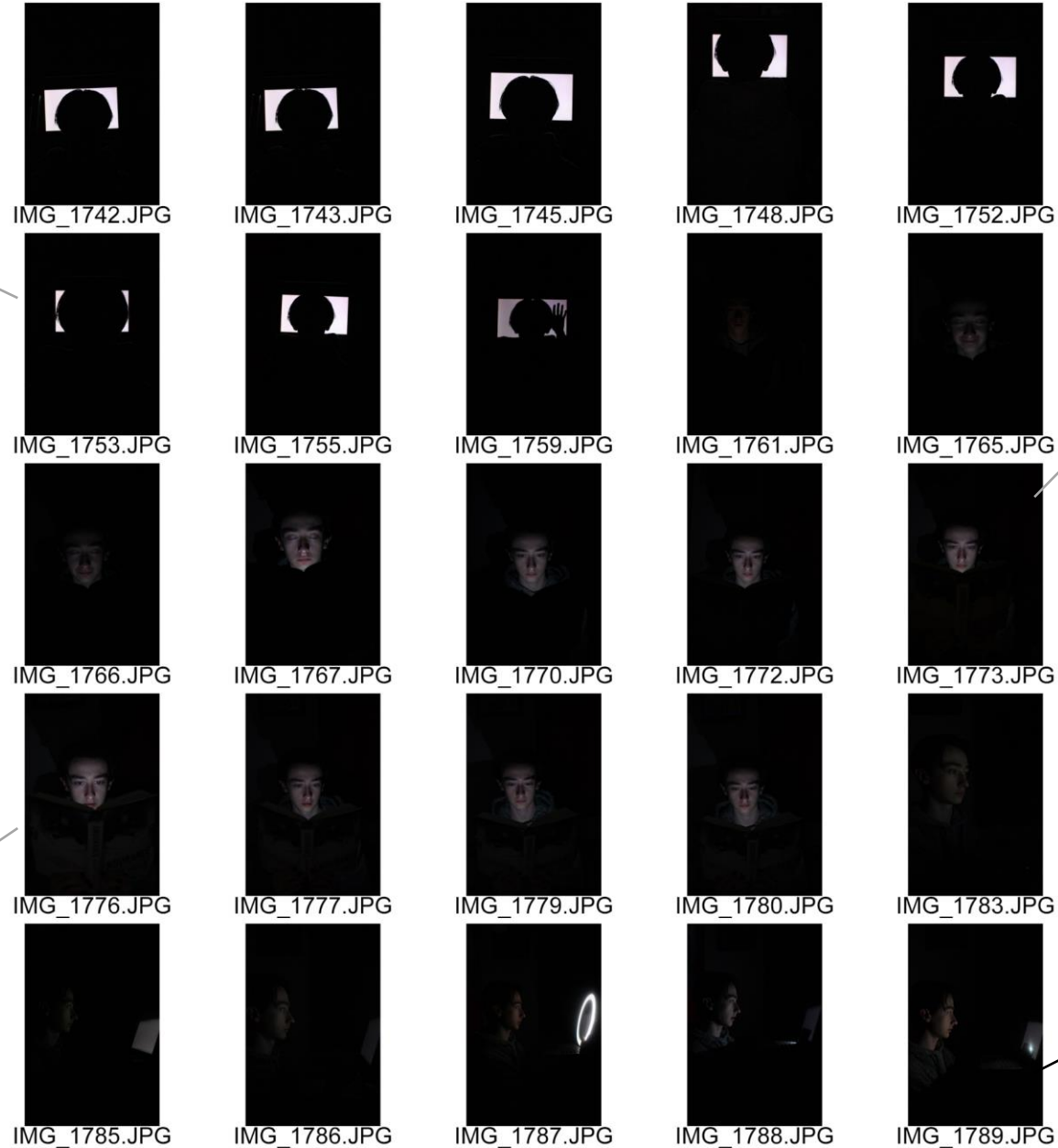
Book being
held, with light
coming out
from the book



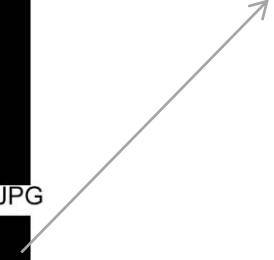
My First Shoot



I tried many different angles for these images, and found it was better for the subject to be closer to the T.V, so that there would be more of a silhouette



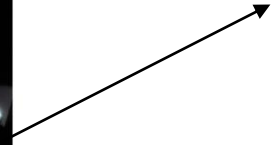
I tried using more light on the face for some of the images



When reshooting these images I need to find a better way to light the face up in these images, that also allows for the laptop to be visible in the image



I also tried lighting up the back of the book, so that it was more visible within the shoot





For this image I wanted to have a silhouette of the subjects head and shoulders in the shot, in order to have the light from the tv, shine towards him and light the subject up. I chose to have the screen white, as I want the image to be very simple, in order to keep the narrative.

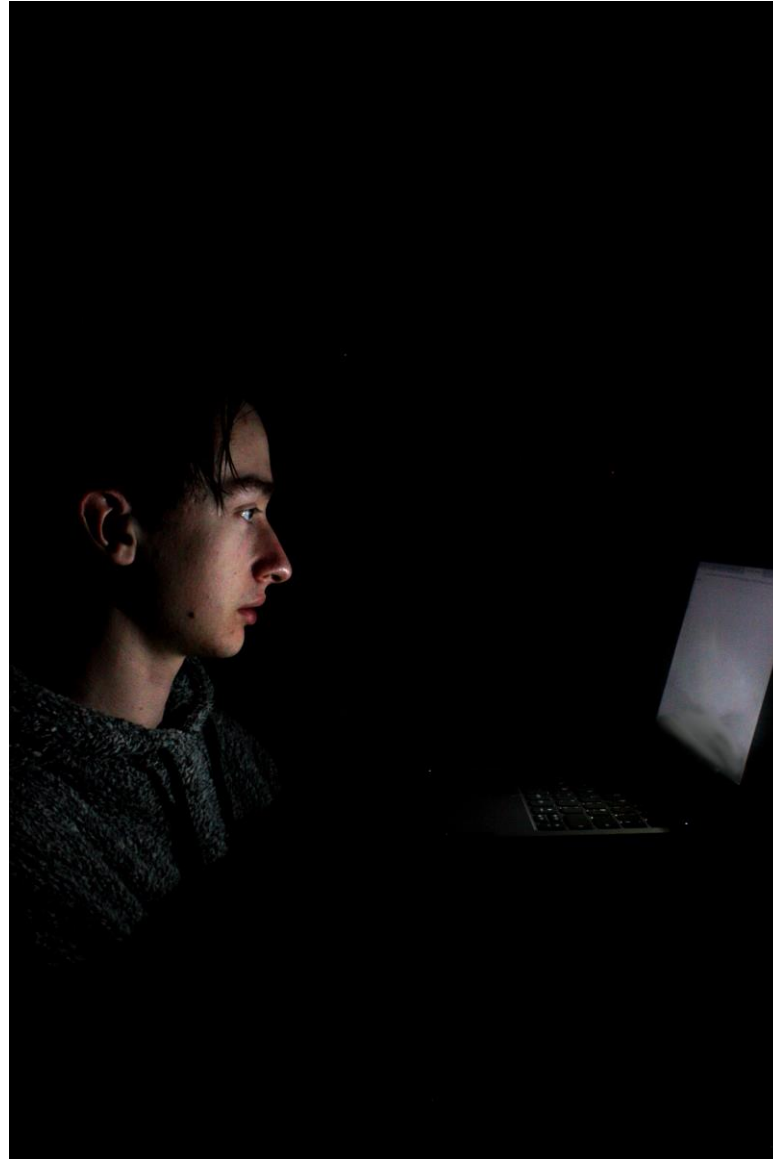
I do like this image, as I like how he is lit up and how in the image there is only two main focuses, so that the image is very simple.

I do think that there are a few things that I could change in order to make the image more effective, when I create the final images. Including using a larger light source, by using a bigger TV, so that there will be more light and it will make the subject of the image, stand out more. I need to also use a light on the back of the subject, so that its lit up more, and the image doesn't look as dark.

For this image I wanted it to still be very simple, but wanted to have more context in the image, which is why I included the laptop.

I like how this image came out and I think that it was the best image out of them all, as there is more in the image, while still keeping it very simple, because there is more in the image, it adds more context, which also helps to tell the story, which I need to include more of when doing my final shoot.

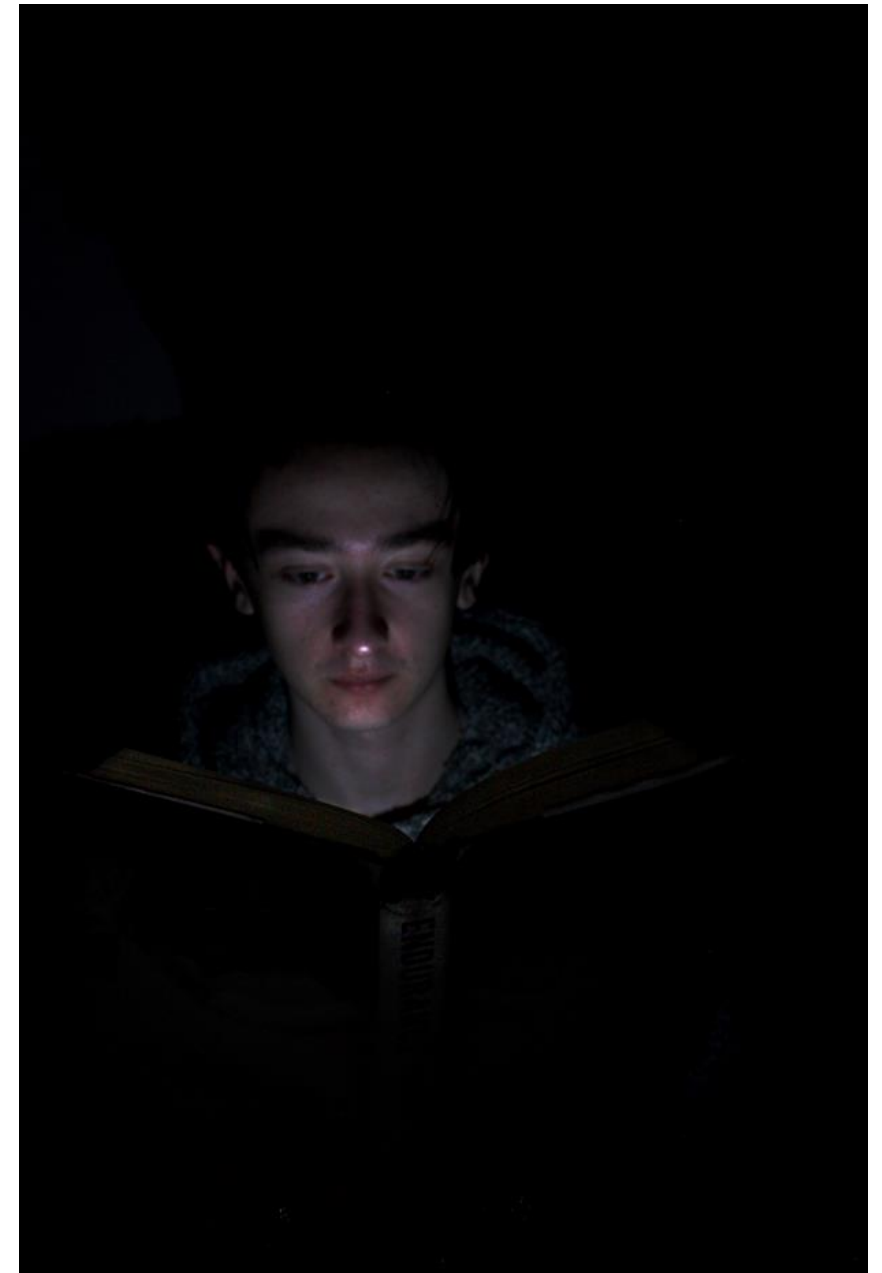
The lighting in this image is really beautiful and makes the image more interesting, I also like how there is just black surrounding the centre point of the image, as it adds more intrigue and makes the it more appealing.

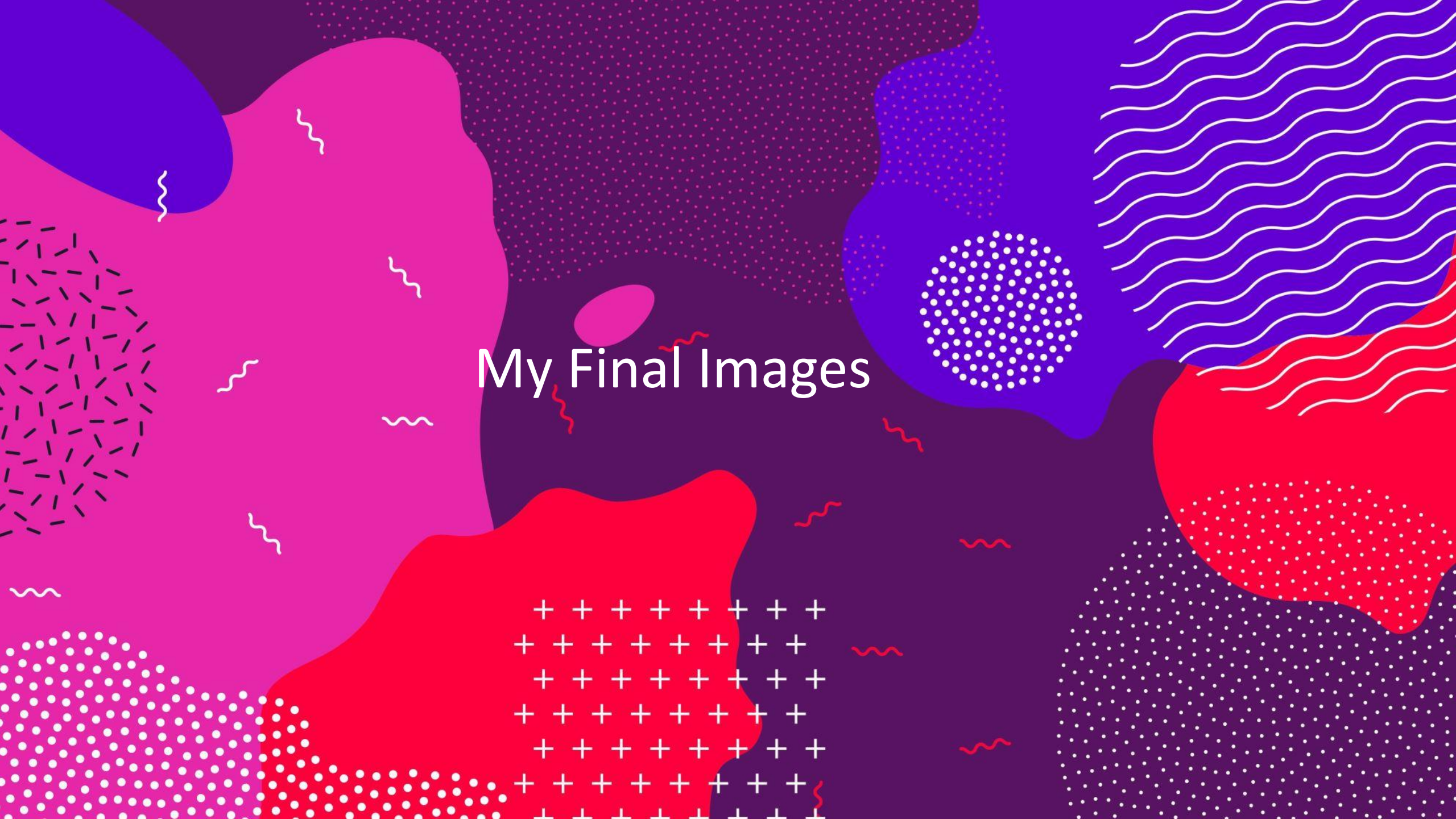


To better improve this image, I need to find a better light source, as for this I used a phone torch and placed it on the laptop, which did work well, but there was some issues when trying to photoshop the phone out, but overall this image came out really well and was the best out of all of them all.

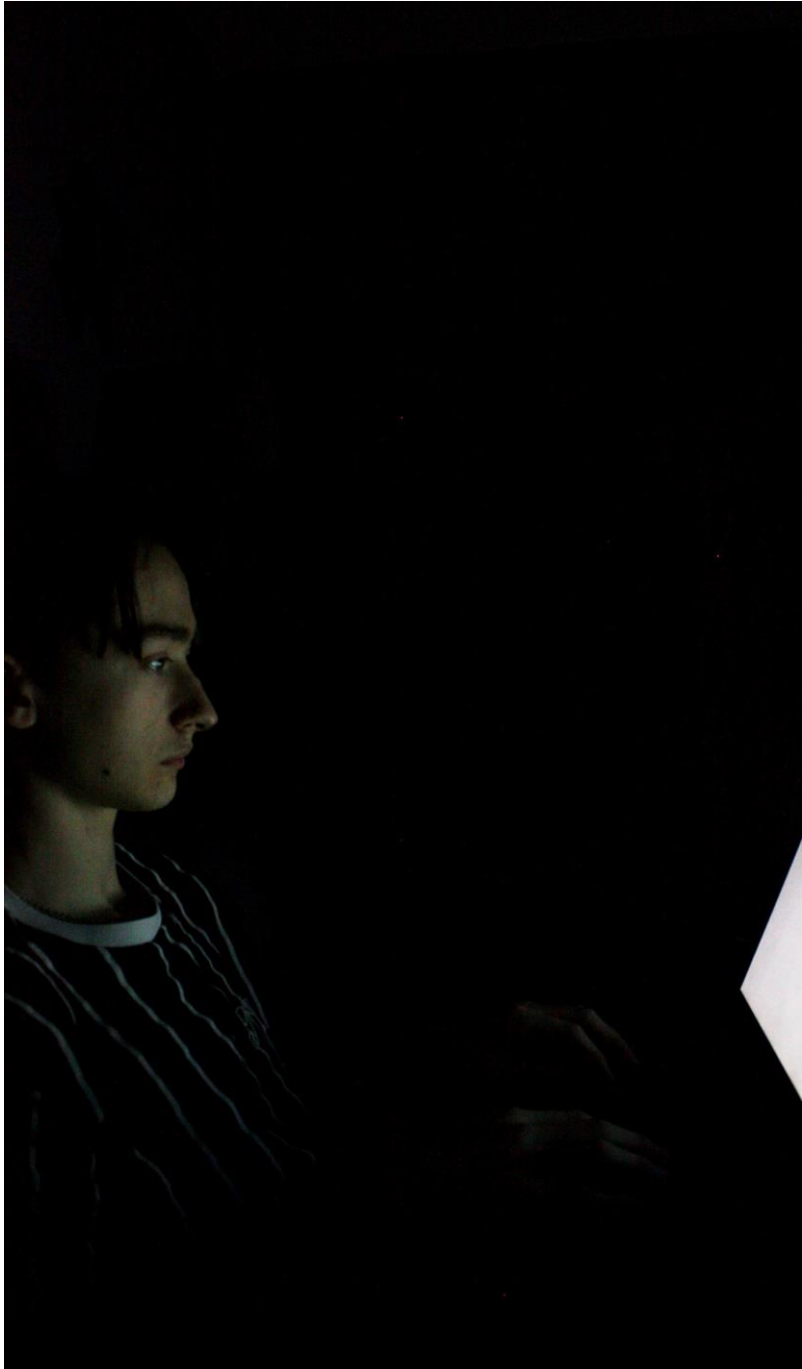
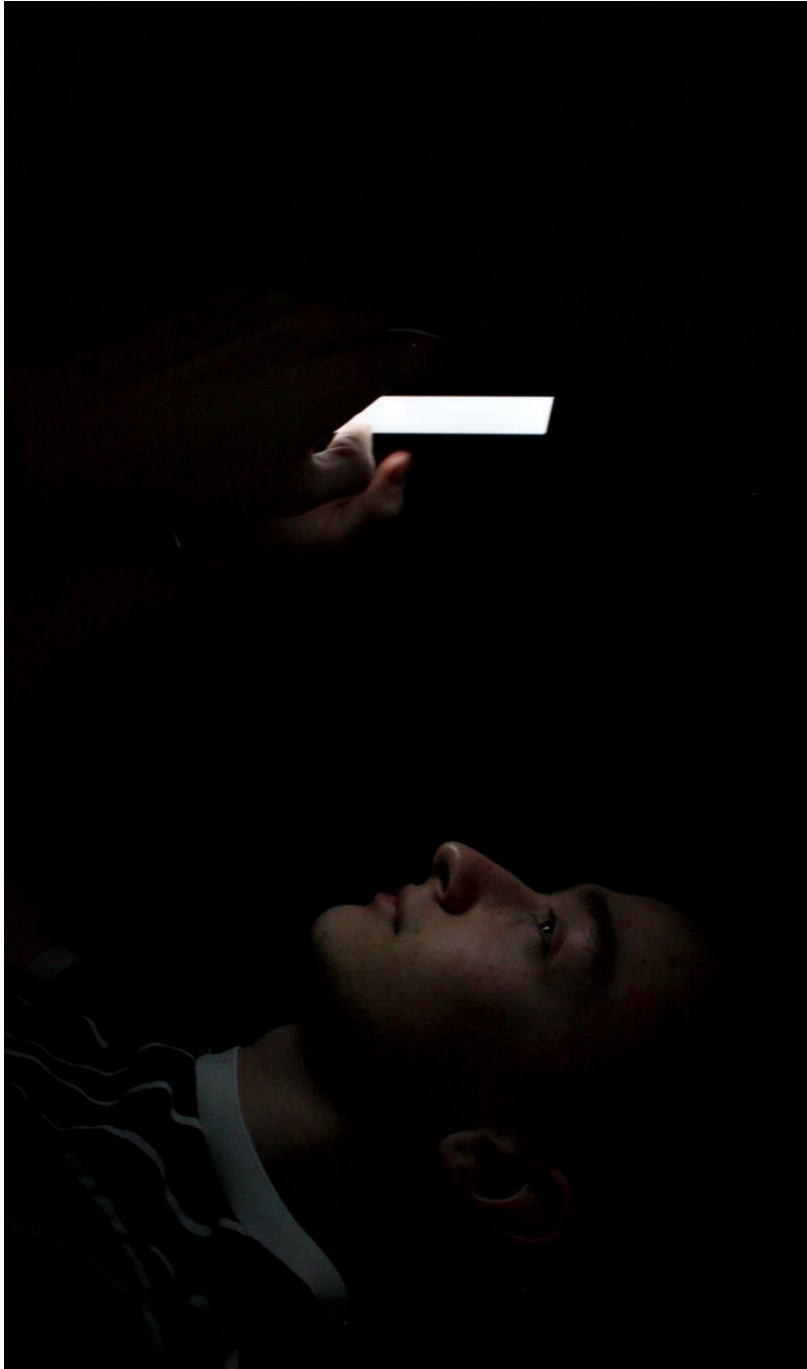
For this image I wanted to have light coming out the book, in order for the light to represent delight coming from reading a book and it being used as a distraction.

I think that this image is done well, but it needs more light, so that it is clear what he is doing. I think that the subjects of the image work well, and are effective, in showing the distraction coming from reading, and this is shown effectively, but the image needs to be sharper, and with more light on the back of the book, it should give me better results, I also could have cropped and adjusted the image, so that the focus point is straighter and level on both sides.



The background is a complex, abstract composition. It features large, organic shapes in shades of magenta, fuchsia, and deep red. These shapes are layered over a dark purple background. Various patterns are scattered throughout: a circular area on the left is filled with short, black, radiating lines; a circular area in the upper right contains a dense grid of small white dots; a large area on the right is filled with horizontal, wavy white lines; and a large area at the bottom is filled with a grid of small white plus signs. Small, white, wavy lines are scattered across the magenta and red areas, while small, red, wavy lines are scattered across the dark purple background.

My Final Images



I tried many different angles for this shoot, in order to get the best lighting and position



IMG_1793.JPG



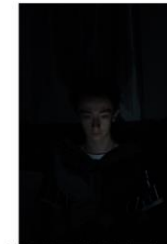
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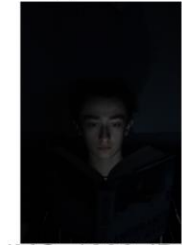
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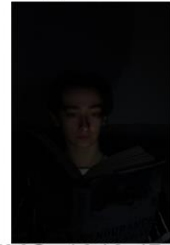
IMG_1830.JPG



IMG_1834.JPG



IMG_1836.JPG



IMG_1840.JPG



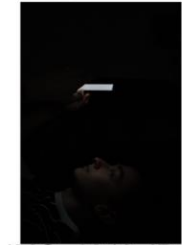
IMG_1845.JPG



IMG_1846.JPG



IMG_1847.JPG



IMG_1848.JPG



IMG_1862.JPG



IMG_1863.JPG



IMG_1866.JPG



IMG_1867.JPG



IMG_1868.JPG



IMG_1869.JPG

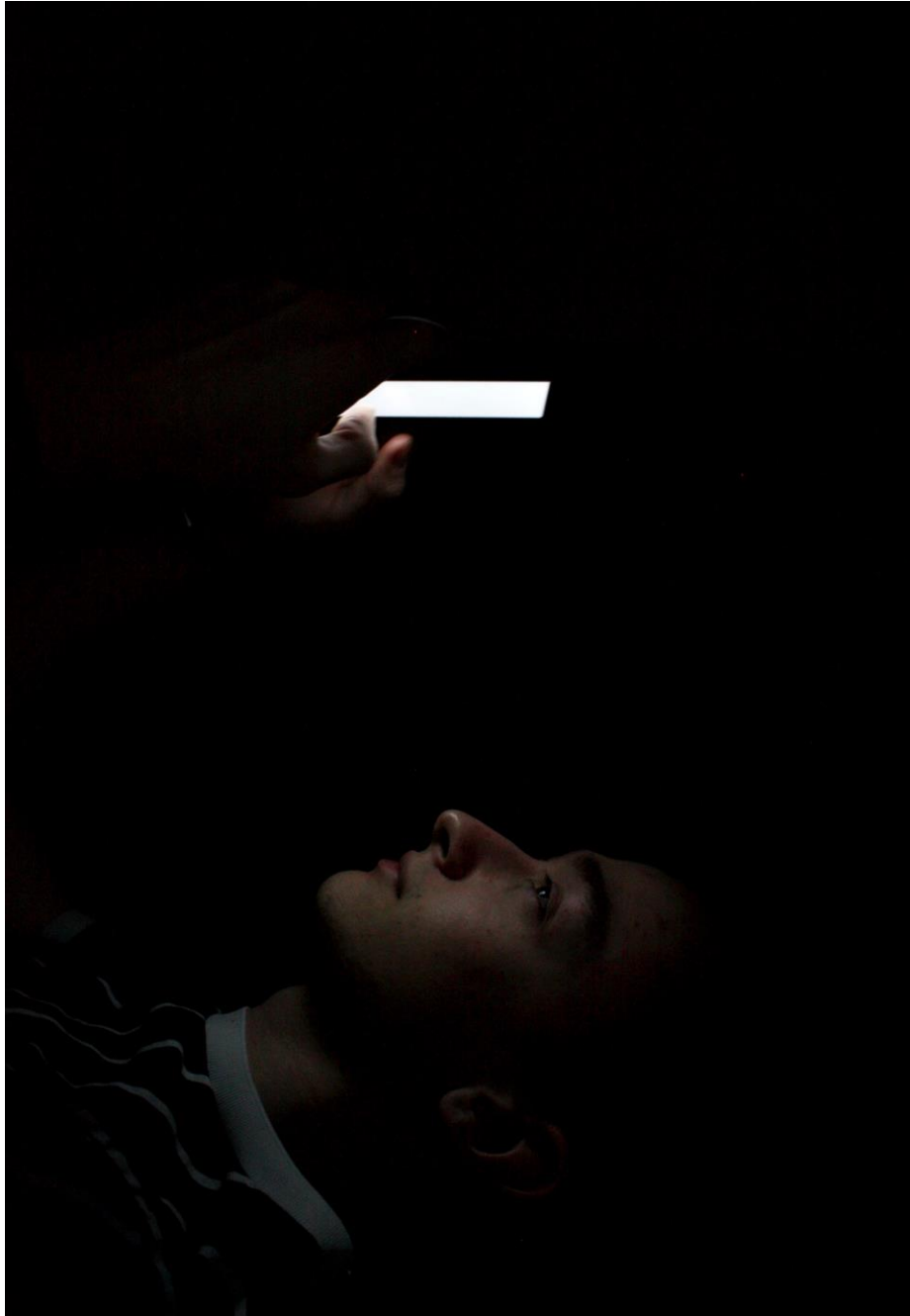


IMG_1870.JPG

I tried having the light, closer to his face, to better light it up, after trying it further away from his face and finding what worked better

I used a ring light, for these images, to get better lighting, as it was something I needed to work on, after my last shoot

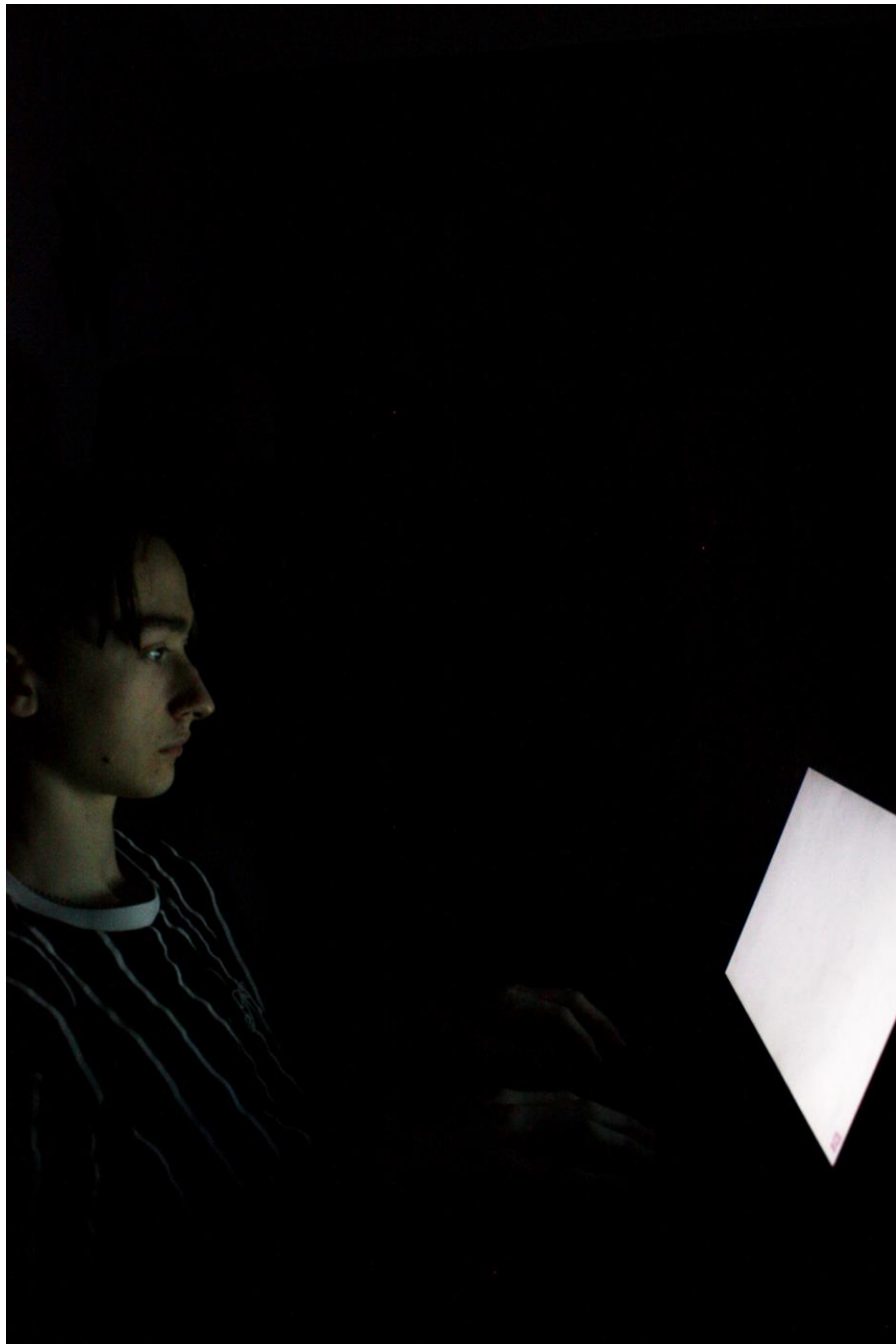
I tried this image, with and without the ring light, to see what would work better, which I could then fix in photoshop afterwards



This is one of my favourite images, out of them all, for many reasons, such as the lighting, as the way the light projects onto his face, is really beautiful, and it makes for a very interesting image as it lights up the features of his face really well.

I really like how the positioning of this image looks, as well, as it has a lot of empty space, but I think I have made the image work well, while still being able to tell the story.

I think to better improve this image I could have lit up his hand more, as it would have brought more into the image and would have helped to tell the story, but overall this is a really stunning image.



This is definitely my favourite image as it is the most striking and sinister out of them all, the lighting is really beautiful somehow there is very little in the image but it can still tell a story while the darkness makes the image all the more intriguing. I think that the only thing I could have done differently for this image, is to have lit up the keyboard of the laptop more, to make it more clear to what is going on in the image, but I also think that this image works well without.

This image is truly striking and makes for a beautiful image. What I like about this image is the lighting and the contrast between the light and the dark, I wanted this image to show the links between joy from reading and how in the book year of spaghetti, he gets joy from cooking. I love how in this image his face is lit up and how there is no expression on his face I also think it's interesting how the shadow with his head behind him is clear in the image and makes it all the more interesting and somewhat sinister as his shadow is lurking behind him.

To better improve this image I could have chosen him to hold a different book so that it could have been more clear what he was doing, as if I had chosen a book with a white back, it would have made the image a little more clear.



Final Evaluation

I chose the book Year of Spaghetti by Haruki Murakami, as I really enjoyed reading the story and thought that I could make something interesting from his book, I chose to stick with the idea of loneliness and isolation and focused on these topics, as well as using the idea of joy and happiness being brought from little things and hobbies and I chose to focus on what I thought spaghetti could represent and how I could interpret it into my art , just like in the book, as the main character chose to cook spaghetti, which inevitably was the only thing that brought him joy and it was all he wanted to do. I wanted to use this concept and create something more relatable with it, as in the modern world, most people would find this joy through technology, which is something that I really wanted to highlight in my work. By taking this idea I wanted to have images that felt very isolated, I did this by only having one person in all the images, and by having the images be very simple and dark, I chose to light up all my images with light from a screen, I thought this would fit well with my idea and how I interpreted the themes in the book. I also wanted to use a book with light coming from it, to still show how there can be joy from doing such tasks such as reading and thought that it would be very fitting to the topic, also in order to show how hobbies like this can also be used as distractions.

My final images turned out gorgeous and I am very happy with the final work, I thought that the lighting in the images was striking and I love how the contrast between the light and dark works, especially with the lighting coming from the screens. I thought that my final three images represented the theme well and accomplished the ideas that I was going for. I loved how the images represented the minimal joy that comes from doing such task, while also having the images fell very isolated. I thought that the expressions of the subject's face were also very interesting, as I wanted to have a very blank expression, to better convey the feeling of loneliness, as although the character does feel joy when doing task, such as reading or being on his phone, he still feels isolated and lonely, which are all key themes.

I think there were a few adjustments that I could have made when creating these images, such as using a long exposure to get the lighting the way I wanted it to look, but instead I chose to have a brighter light source, and then went on to photoshop it so it became brighter. I also could have used better props, so that it was clearer what was happening in the images, although I think it still is affective as the images still turned out well. I also added most of the improvements into my images, after doing an initial shoot, so that there would be a better outcome of my final images. In the end I chose not to use the image of the silhouette in front of the TV, as I found the image to be not very interesting, very difficult to see and simply couldn't make the image work for me and it didn't add much to the story.

I chose to present my work as still images, I thought it represented the images better and added stillness that was needed within the image I could have chosen to make my images into GIFs but thought that it would be better to keep them simple. I chose to use two different artists to better help me inspire my work, these artists were Philip Lorca Dicorcia and Nirav Patel, as both artists have worked with low light portraiture, which is what my images were of, their work inspired me and gave me ideas of how I could use low light in my images to make them more striking.

Final Word Count – 672 Words

References

(The New Yorker , n.d.)

(Course Hero , n.d.)

(Good Reads , n.d.)

(Literature Frenzy , n.d.)

(Murakami, 2005)